

Family Memories Oral History **Interview Outline**

Introductory Information:

- Interviewer's name (as interviewer)
- Date and place of interview
- Name of the person being interviewed
- Name of the oral history project, school, etc.

1. Background Information:

A. When and where were you born?

1. How did your family arrive in that part of the country?

B. Parent's background?

1. Father?

a. Occupation(s)?

b. How would you describe his personalities/abilities?

2. Mother?

a. Occupation(s)?

b. How would you describe her personalities/abilities?

3. Which parent do you take after?

C. Other siblings & immediate family?

2. Growing up:

A. Family life?

- i. Where did you grow up?
- ii. Describe your home(s) for me.
- iii. Was the family religious?
- iv. Holiday traditions in your family?

Family Memories Outline, cont.

B. Describe your neighborhood / community?

i. Tell me about your friends growing up?

C. Memories from your early years?

i. Your earliest memory?

ii. What chores did you have?

1. Did you get an allowance?

D. Where did you attend grade school?

i. Middle schools (Junior high)?

E. High School years:

i. Academic interests?

1. Any especially important teachers in your life?

ii. Extra-curricular activities/interests?

1. Sports, band, clubs, class positions, etc.

2. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, FFA, church groups, etc.

iii. Did you have a job?

iv. Did you have any hobbies?

F. Person who had the strongest influence on your early life?

G. Your career aspirations while in high school?

H. When did you graduate?

3. Life after high school?

A. Choosing a profession? / Finding a job?

i. Why that decision?

Family Memories Outline, cont.

- ii. Tell me about the job?
- B. or Choosing a college?
 - i. What was your major/minor in college?
 - ii. Influential teachers & courses?
 - iii. Did you work during college?
 - 1. Summer job(s)?
 - iv. Any extra-curricular activities?
 - 1. Sorority or Fraternity?
 - v. Did you graduate? When?

C. Masters or other higher degrees?

[Revise & expand outline based on what was learned in the pre-interview. Possible topics could include...]

4. Early career:

- A. Tell me about your first job?
 - i. Describe what you did?
 - ii. Where was the job?
 - iii. What were your long-term goals at the time?

5. Family / personal life:

- A. Marriage?
 - i. How did you meet your spouse? When?
 - ii. What was it about him/her that attracted you?
 - iii. Do you have any special memories about the wedding?
- B. Did you have any children?

Family Memories Outline, cont.

C. What were your activities & interests outside your work?

i. Your first home? Did you rent or buy?

ii. Your religious life?

[The remainder of the interview outline will be based on the individual's particular career & experiences. We recommend you ask for photos and/or mementos and include a discussion on these.]

6. Concluding questions: (Ask reflective comments that get the interviewee to look back on his/her entire life and career. Here are some possibilities. Think about other questions that will work for your interviewee.)

A. What is your most cherished possession? May I see it?

B. What was the most fateful decision you made in life; the one that changed the direction of your life after that?

C. The accomplishment(s) for which you are most proud?

D. Were there any significant disappointments or failures you're willing to discuss?

i. What did you learned from that?

E. For what would you want to be remembered?

F. Closing comments.